

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4990

S E C R E T AMMAN 4391

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, JO

SUBJECT: ROSENTHAL RESOLUTION

REF: AMMAN TELS (A) 4132 AND (B) 4293

1. EVENING JUNE 29 AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY
ROSENTHAL RESOLUTION WITH JORDAN CHIEF OF STAFF BIN
SHAKER. LATTER MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) NOW THAT WE HAVE COME SO FAR ON AIR DEFENSE, WOULD BE
A REAL DISASTER TO HAVE SOMETHING DEVELOP IN CONGRESS
WHICH WOULD BLOCK HAWK SALE. JORDAN'S DEFENSES WOULD
BE GRAVELY IMPERILED; ARMY MORALE AND CONFIDENCE WOULD
BE BADLY SHAKEN. (OTHER SOURCES IN POSITION TO
KNOW TELL ME KING SHARES THIS VIEW AND IS GREATLY
CONCERNED. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI DOES ALSO, AS HE TOLD ME
AT SAME GATHERING. RIFAI ALSO SAYS JORDAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON REPORTS THAT SOME SORT OF BLOCKING
RESOLUTION HAS OR WILL BE FAVORABLY REPORTED OUT OF
HOUSE COMMITTEE AS A RESULT OF THIS EFFORT.)

B) JORDANIANS WERE EXTREMELY SURPRISED TO LEARN VIA
PRESS REPORTS (NO MORE I MIGHT ADD THAN I WAS) THAT
A TWO PERCENT COMMISSION WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED BY
RAYTHEON. BIN SHAKER WAS VERY TROUBLED BY ALLEGATION IN
PRESS REPORT THAT A JORDANIAN WAS TO BE PAID. HE TOLD
ME THAT IF THEY EVER CATCH SUCH A JORDANIAN THEY

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WILL LOCK HIM UP AND THROW THE KEY AWAY. HE SAYS THAT

THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BUY ALL OF THEIR MILITARY EQUIPMENT VIA FMS TO AVOID HAVING TO PAY COMMISSIONS. THEY FEEL BETRAYED BY REPORTED STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO CONGRESS THAT RAYTHEON WAS GOING TO PAY ONE. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE IRATE THAT WE ARE TELLING THE CONGRESS ABOUT A COMMISSION WHEN THEY CANNOT YET GET THE PRICE OF THE HAWK SYSTEM FROM US.

C) AS FOR SAUDI ANGLE, BIN SHAKER TELLS ME, AS OPPOSED TO THE PAST, SAUDIS ARE INSISTING THAT PRICE AND SALE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN US AND GOJ PRECISELY TO AVOID "COMMISSION" PROBLEMS ABOUT WHICH SAUDIS WERE BEING PUBLICLY BURNED BY US PRESS WHEN SHAKER WAS IN RIYADH. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE BELIEVES SAUDIS WISH ALSO TO AVOID A COMMISSION AND THE ATTENDANT PROBLEMS.

D) SHAKER SAYS HE THOUGHT US HAD TO APPROVE ANY COMMISSION GIVEN BY RAYTHEON AND CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEREFORE WHY WE TOLD CONGRESS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY INSTEAD OF JUST TELLING RAYTHEON IT WOULD NOT BE APPROVED. FRANKLY, IF ABOVE IS TRUE, WE DO NOT ALSO UNDERSTAND, BUT WE ARE SUBJECT TO SINGULAR DEARTH OF INFORMATION AT THE MOMENT.

E) BIN SHAKER SAYS HE SUSPECTS DEEPLY THAT HIS "WESTERN" NEIGHBORS ARE BEHIND ALL OF THIS. IF THEY CANNOT GET THEIR NEW WEAPONS REQUESTS APPROVED, THEN THEY ARE DOING WHATEVER THEY CAN THROUGH THE CONGRESS TO SEE THAT JORDAN DOES NOT. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT EVEN IF ISRAELIS GOT THEIR NEW WEAPONS THEY WOULD PURSUE BLOCKING TACTICS IN CONGRESS BECAUSE THE HAWK WILL KEEP THEM FROM VIOLATING JORDAN AIR SPACE IN THE FUTURE AS THEY NOW DO REGULARLY.

2. I HAVE COUNSELED CALM UNTIL I GET THE FACTS FROM WASHINGTON. AT THE MOMENT THAT IS ALL I CAN SAY EXCEPT TO ADD SPECULATION UNSUPPORTED BY ANY FACTS AND THIS OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS ISSUE IS SHAPING UP RAPIDLY INTO ONE OF MAJOR CONCERN. WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE ANSWERS TO QUERY REFTEL (B) SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO INSURE THIS PROGRAM SERVES OUR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN JORDAN RATHER THAN DETRACTS FROM THEM. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF BASIC INFORMATION, WE WILL HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO OFFER. PICKERING

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